

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5, 6, 17, and 18 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Appeltans (U.S. Patent No. 5,552,694) in view of Bittner (U.S. Reissue Patent No. 37,609); and claims 11 and 12 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Appeltans (U.S. Patent No. 5,552,694) in view of Malcolm (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,954) and Bittner (U.S. Reissue Patent No. 37,609). The Examiner has objected to claims 7-10, 13-16, and 19-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-4 have been allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the favorable treatment of claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-16 and 19-20. Claims 1-5, 9-11, 14-17 and 20 are currently pending in this application. Claims 6-8, 12-13 and 18-19 have been cancelled. Claims 5, 9, 11, 14, 17 and 20 have been amended. The rejections and objections have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 5, 9-11 and 14-17 and 20.

2. Claim 5 was rejected based on the combination of Appeltans and Bittner. Claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 7, including intervening claim 6. Claims 6 – 8 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 5. Applicant believes that claim 5, and claims 9-10 that depend therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

3. Claim 11 was rejected based on the combination of Appeltans, Malcolm and Bittner. Claim 11 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 13, including intervening claim 12. Claims 12-13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 11. Applicant believes that claim 11, and claims 14-16 that depend therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

4. Claim 17 was rejected based on the combination of Appeltans, Malcolm and Bittner. Claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 19, including intervening claim 18. Claims 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 20 has been amended to depend from claim 17. Applicant believes that claim 17, and claim 20 that depends therefrom are in a condition for allowance.

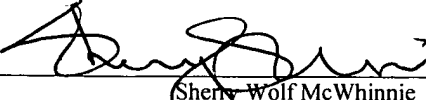
For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 5, 9-11 and 14-17 and 20 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

No additional fee is due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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<u>April 3, 2006</u> Date	 Sherry Wolf McWhinnie